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The new Colegio San Nicolas ready for new school year



You would recall that back in July, the Minister of Education announced that they will begin a new HAVO school in San Nicolas, and that this will be a full fledged day school program. This means that what was a dependence or annex to the Colegio Aruban in Oranjestad for 35 years have now become a school on its own, and a public school to boot. This new HAVO School will be temporally called, Colegio San Nicolas.

The staff and teachers of Colegio San Nicolaas are busy preparing for the opening of the new school year. Registrations

are taking place for the CB1, HAVO-4 and HL1 classes. They have all the necessary teachers, and most of the books are in house and all the controls are being done to ensure that they can begin operating optimally and efficiently as of the first day of school.

Students of Colegio San Nicolas have received emails informing them of what they will be needing to begin the new school year. In the event a student did not receive these mails, they should contact the school at Tel.584-6800 or via email at colegiopariba@gmail.

com. The mail is with reference to school hours, uniforms and classroom behaviour.

Students of classes CB1, CB2, H3 and V3 should stop by the school on August 10th to collect their school books. The 'Boekenfonds' is open from 9:00 in the morning until 1:00 in the afternoon. In order to be eligible to receive new books, each student must present a valid I.D. and valid proof of payment of books. Every student is kindly requested to bring along a large bag in which to place their new books for carry out.

Continued on page 5

And their off! Aruba's Junior League baseball team off to the World Series!



Minister Visser with the team



Minister Oduber with son Jeandrick

Aruba's Junior League Baseball team, winners of this year's Latin Championship title, departed for Taylor, Michigan yesterday afternoon to compete in the Junior League World Series of Baseball 2012. The players, be-

tween the ages of 13 to 15 have proven to be a formidable team, winning the Latin Division champion title for the Latin Division in July, during the play-offs in Costa Rica.

Continued on page 5

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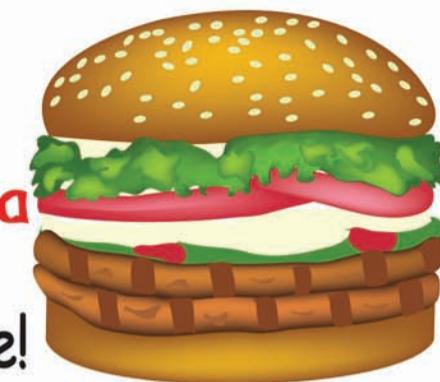
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New Bonaire TV Channel to be seen here on Aruba!

EnergiaVision of Bonaire to be added to SETAR Cable program line up as of August 13th and on Channel 55!



all the way to Holland
within the near future.

On Monday, August 13 Channel 55 will begin broadcasting EnergiaVision on Aruba. Their programming will include, among others, an early morning talk show, news, cultural programs, programs of nature, entertainment, children's programs, sports, education and lifestyle programs.

EnergiaVision will vary their programs to promote general development, to challenge young people to excellence and to promote the interchange of information. They will have 2 news segments daily, with a section for social concerns and an opinion program, and a show of cooking. They also intend to transmit live activities.

Aruban tele viewers are cordially invited to join the audience of EnergiaVision this coming Monday at 6:00 p.m. on Channel 55. EnergiaVision will undoubtedly bring the islands closer together and at the same time keep Bonairians residing on Aruba fully abreast of what is happening on the lovely island of Bonaire.

EnergiaVision is a television station in combination with a radio station on Bonaire. This is a brand new medium for Bonaire which has met all stringent modern technological requirements to join the air waves. This new station went on the air officially in the month of May 2012 with local programming on Bonaire on channel 2 via cable of TELBO MiTv. EnergiaVision's ambition is to reach the entire Dutch Caribbean region with their programming. They will begin sending their signal to Aruba on Channel 55, then to Curacao on Channel 22, and then on to St. Maarten and the rest of the BES islands. Eventually, they plan to reach

Appeal for patience while construction and decorative work is in progress



The general public is kindly requested to be patient while work is being carried out at the beach in front of the Governor's house and at the construction site of the Surf Side beach.

The work of the beautification of the Beach at this area is in full swing, while they are also engaged in building a ramp at the Surf Side beach. The work is scheduled to be completed within three weeks.

The government explained that at the outset of this Project their intention was to first

complete the building of the new ramp, and then continue with the beautification of the beach in front of the Governor's house. But that plan was changed. This week the contractors were given the mandate to complete both projects and to have the work done in three weeks.

The new pier being built will offer much more facilities to users of the area. For example, they will now have a bathroom, places for food and drinks, and they will make the lowering and raising of boats

much easier and safer.

The beach will receive a complete facelift which will benefit both locals and visitors, and particularly those who will visit from cruise ships. Cruise ships visitors will be within walking distance to enjoy this beach during the hours that they are on the island.

Just a little patience and understanding and soon this area will be ready for use in its refurbished form with brand new pier and other facilities. It is expected to be worth the waiting and patience!

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Saturday

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Robert Thiel



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Hyatt Regency Aruba announces upgrades to its culinary landscape, including a highly-anticipated new dining concept

Aruba's premier resort will welcome a new upscale Mexican restaurant and revitalized Ruinas del Mar by Mid-December 2012

PALM BEACH) – Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Casino & Spa (www.aruba.hyatt.com) announced yesterday that it will unveil two exciting restaurant upgrades in time for the holidays. In continuation of the resort's multi-million dollar refurbishments initially completed in 2008, Hyatt Regency Aruba will welcome a new, upscale Mexican restaurant and a refurbished Ruinas del Mar, its signature restaurant, by December 17.

Designed by The Johnson Studio, the new Mexican dining concept and refurbished Ruinas Del Mar will provide guests with two dynamic dining experiences. As they descend into the lagoon area, diners will be greeted by an inviting lounge situated on a floating deck over the existing reflecting pool. The lounge will provide a casual atmosphere upon arrival and serve as additional outdoor restaurant seating. Sail-like shades offer guests a retreat from the sun during the day and serve as the backdrop for soft up-lighting and illuminated lanterns, creating a candlelit dining experience at night.

Adjoining the lounge will be the highly-anticipated and yet-to-be-named Mexican restaurant, which will feature a menu of bold flavors, mouthwatering classics, and signature libations. Its ingredient-driven menu of freshly made guacamole, refreshing ceviches, and authentic Mexican cuisine will be served with a contemporary twist. A glowing bar will display an extensive tequila selection and a sparkling shot glass

chandelier will entice guests to indulge in a taste.

Adjacent to the new restaurant lies the redesigned Ruinas del Mar. As the menu tantalizes taste buds, guests will revel in the restaurant's new look. An open-hearth oven will fill the dining room with a sense of warmth and invite guests to partake in the action and energy of the kitchen. Abundant outdoor seating will give guests the opportunity to dine amidst the waterfalls and wildlife, while vibrant draperies and hand blown glass chandeliers will create a dramatic ambiance at night.

From August 20 – December 17, the beachfront Palms restaurant will be the main dining option, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Additional choices include oceanfront dining at Footprints Beach Grill, a sushi bar

at Alfresco Lobby Bar, and dinner menus at Palms Bar and Piet's Pier Bar. Upon completion of the upgrades, both restaurants will be open for dinner and Ruinas del Mar will be open daily for breakfast and Sunday Brunch.

All dining options at Hyatt Regency Aruba now implement Hyatt's new global "Food, Thoughtfully Sourced, Carefully Served" philosophy, which focuses on sourcing and providing healthy food and beverage options to guests. The program's pillars include smaller portion sizes; natural, organic and hormone-free menu options; sustainable practices; and locally sourced ingredients.

For more information about Hyatt Regency Aruba call 1-800-55-HYATT or visit www.aruba.hyatt.com.

Richard and Tina honored at the Marriott Ocean Vacation Club



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Mr. Richard and Mrs. Tina Koch, from Johns Creek GA., as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The couple have been visiting our island for more than 10 consecutive years. This symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years. The Koch couple have the Marriott resorts as their home away from home and they say they are very much in love with the Marriott Resorts and the friendly people who work there. They also love the Island, the friendly people, the nice climate, beautiful beaches, and diverse restaurants. The certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Gail Sahit of the Marriott Ocean Vacation Club.

Group of loyal visitors honored at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort



Also recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a group of loyal visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees are Mr. James and Mrs. Linda Pietro and their son Mr. Christopher Pietro, they received the Distinguished Visitor certificate, and Mr. Richard and Mrs. Joanne Savitz received the Goodwill Ambassador certificate. All of them are loyal members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort and they are very much in love with the Island. They like our beaches and snorkeling, the restaurants and all other activities that the island has to offer. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Xiomara representing the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort.

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Aruba's Junior League baseball team off to the World Series!

Continued from page 1

The last time they won the regional championships was in 2009; that team went on to be the runners-up in the Junior League World Series conducted annually at Heritage Park in Taylor, Michigan.

Aruba's champion team, Oranjestad North, was bid farewell by Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser, at the Reina Beatrix Airport. Joining him in seeing the boys and their coaches on the plane was Aruba's Minister

of Tourism Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber. He was there, however, as a parent, not a politician, as his son Jean-derrick will be competing on behalf of Aruba.

Minister Dr. Visser expressed the hope that the weeks focused on training since their return from Costa Rica, with the input Aruban former Major League player Eugene Kingsale, who was with the Baltimore Orioles, Seattle Mariners, San Diego

Padres, and Detroit Tigers, will make the difference.

Junior League World Series games will begin tomorrow, August 12. Aruba will square off against the Asia-Pacific Champions, Min-De Junior Little League from Tainan City, Chinese Taipei beginning at 2:45 PM. The games will be broadcast live on ESPN 3; final title game will take place on Saturday, August 18.

by Rosalie Klein

Tropical Depression 7 moving toward Caribbean, Ernesto dumping rain

ST. PETERSBURG -- The tropics remained fairly active yesterday, as Ernesto broke up over Mexico, Gordon is close to forming, and a third area shows signs of development near the Cape Verde Islands.

Ernesto has dissipated as it dumps heavy rain over the mountains of Mexico. However, there is a chance its remnants could manage to redevelop off Mexico's Pacific coast. If that happens, the system would be renamed "Hector," because tropical cyclones in the Pacific use different names than those used in the Atlantic.

Tropical Depression Seven, as of right now, will continue a westward movement, potentially strengthening as it heads toward the Caribbean.

The third area of low pressure near the African Coast continues to organize, and may become a depression over the next couple of days.

Meanwhile, the tropical depression is moving faster to the west. Interests in the Windward and Leeward Islands should monitor the progress this system. The depression is moving toward the west near 23 mph, and this general motion is likely to continue for the next couple of days. On the forecast track, the depression will approach the Windward and Leeward Islands Saturday night.

Maximum sustained winds remain near 35 mph, with higher gusts. Some strengthening is possible during the next 48 hours, and the depression could become a tropical storm before reaching the Lesser Antilles. The depression could emerge in the Caribbean some time early next week.

The new Colegio San Nicolas...

Continued from page 1

H4 and HL1 students will receive their books during the following weeks.

The first day of school is August 15th. All students must be at Colegio San Nicolas by 7:45am. On this first day they will meet their school colleagues, mentor and the class schedule (rooster). On August 15th they will officially inaugurate the new school and school year. The first day of school will be a short one; it will end at 10:45am. This is in order to give teachers and staff the time to meet together to

discuss last minute pending matters regarding the schedule and other activities for school year 2012-2013. On the following day, August 16th, classes will begin at 7:45 am and will go in conformity with the published class schedule for each student.

Colegio San Nicolas hopes that all students are enjoying their vacation days, what's left of it, and that on August 15 they will be ready to start the new academic year with zeal and enthusiasm!



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Storm Ernesto kills two in Mexico

XALAPA (AFP) - Ernesto killed two people in southeastern Mexico, officials said yesterday, with the weakening storm threatening more heavy rain and possible flooding.

A 17-year-old fisherman drowned off the coast of the town of Centla, according to authorities, and the body of a second victim was found in a river near Cunduacan.

Ernesto, which is now downgraded to a tropical depression, made landfall for a second time near the Mexican

port of Coatzacoalcos on Thursday, dumping heavy rain and causing flooding in the Gulf coast region.

As the depression once again moved inland, some areas could still see up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain before skies clear, the Miami-based US National Hurricane Center said.

Mexican civil defense officials said 10 communities had been cut off by flooding, although no major damage was reported.

Campsite attack brings holiday terror to French countryside

SAINT-DIDIER-SOUS-AUBENAS (AFP) - A man was arrested yesterday over a serious sexual assault on an 11-year-old girl that stoked fears of a possible serial attacker in a popular holiday area of central France.

Campsites in the Ardeche region of central France had been told to step up security following Wednesday's attack on the girl that has been linked to a string of similar assaults in recent weeks.

The 32-year-old suspect was arrested at his home in Privas, the capital of the Ardeche

region, and taken into police custody, the public prosecutor in charge of the probe, Franck Alzingre, told AFP.

Alzingre had said earlier that there was no evidence of a link between the latest attack and other incidents which have occurred on campsites in the area since the end of June.

Although Alzingre played down suggestions a serial rapist could be operating in the region, he confirmed that a squad of 50 officers has been assigned to the case, far more than would normally work on a single crime.

Muslim US soldier jailed for life for bomb plot

WACO (AFP) - A Muslim US soldier turned conscientious objector was jailed for life yesterday after being convicted of plotting to kill troops and their families from a military base.

The court had heard that Naser Jason Abdo, 22, planned to attack soldiers and their families from Fort Hood, a sprawling army installation northwest of the Texas state capital, Austin.

Manacled and wearing a mesh cover over his face because he had spat blood on three officers earlier this year, Abdo made a long, rambling

statement that ended in a vow to pursue "jihad" for the rest of his life.

"I don't ask the court for mercy because Allah is the one that gives mercy," he declared.

Abdo was convicted in May of plotting to bomb a popular Chinese restaurant near the base and gun down patrons as they fled, using a handgun fed by extended ammunition magazines.

At his sentencing, Abdo acted as his own attorney, giving a detailed explanation of how he had turned from an infantryman to jihadist.

Five French hostages kidnapped in Sahel seen alive in video

NOUAKCHOTT (AFP) - A Mauritanian online news agency has published a video showing five of six French hostages kidnapped by the North African Al-Qaeda branch from Mali and Niger in the past two years.

The video, seen by AFP yesterday, is a montage of images filmed in different locations, and shows the five hostages separately introducing themselves and leaving a message for their families while surrounded by armed and turbaned men.

One hostage, Philippe Verdon, spoke of "difficult living conditions" and health problems, saying he had not taken his medication for three

Britain giving Syrian rebels body armour

LONDON (AFP) - Britain will give Syrian rebels £5 million in assistance including body armour and communications equipment for their fight against President Bashar al-Assad, Foreign Secretary William Hague said yesterday.

Hague said Britain would not provide weapons but would step up its contacts with opposition groups, especially the Free Syrian Army, to lay the ground for a political solution if Assad falls.

"The people of Syria cannot wait indefinitely, people are dying," Hague told reporters.

"In the absence of diplomatic progress the UK will do much more. We will expand our support to the Syrian people and the Syrian political opposition with an extra £5 million (\$7.82 million, 6.3 million euros) in non-lethal practical assistance."

months. It was not clear what the medication was for.

Verdon was kidnapped in November with Serge Lazarevic from Hombori in northeastern Mali, where they worked as geologists.

He appeals to former French president Nicolas Sarkozy, who was beaten in a second round election on May 6 by Francois Hollande, and international organisations to intervene and free himself and his colleague.

Verdon said Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) was "available to negotiate".

The news agency Sahara Media reported that the video was taken in the last months of Sarkozy's time in office.

An intermediary between France and AQIM told Sahara Media that negotiations were not advancing, and said the

Ecuador asks Sweden to question Assange in London

QUITO (AFP) - Ecuador has asked Sweden to take WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's testimony regarding accusations of rape and sexual harassment in London, the South American nation's top diplomat announced yesterday.

"Our ambassador in Sweden has begun steps to ask the Swedish government to collect the statement of Mr Assange where he is located, at the Ecuadorian embassy in London," said Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino.

Assange, 41, is seeking asylum in Ecuador to avoid his extradition to Sweden, where he is accused of sexual assault.

The WikiLeaks founder fears he could subsequently be re-extradited from Sweden to the United States to stand trial for espionage, on account of the trove of leaked US diplomatic cables and military logs

video was "obvious proof" that the hostages were still alive.

Sahara Media is one of Mauritania's most reliable news organisations and often reports on the activities of armed groups such as AQIM which have occupied the vast desert north of Mali for over four months.

AQIM is holding another four French hostages kidnapped from a uranium mine in Arlit in northern Niger in September 2010. Their abductors have demanded that France withdraw its forces from Afghanistan in exchange for their release.

AQIM is also holding a Swede, Dutch and South African with British citizenship who were kidnapped in November 2011 in an attack on Timbuktu in which a German was killed.

Christine Assange met with Patino Monday.

"I am sure the president and his aides will make the best decision in this case," she told government website El Ciudadano.

Patino said Ecuador will respond to Assange's request after the 2012 London Olympics, which end on August 12.

We will take decisions that do not affect our relations with Britain," Patino said, explaining that Quito would be careful not to do anything that could interfere in any way with the Olympic Games.



A young boy is comforted as he stands beside one of the victims during the wake and visitation service for victims of last Sunday's attack at a Sikh temple, at Oak Creek High School, in Oak Creek, Wisconsin yesterday. Thousands attended the wake where the bodies of the six victims lied in repose, according to local Sikh leaders.

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US warns Hezbollah may strike in Europe

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States fears the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah may be planning imminent attacks in Europe and around the world, a senior security official in Washington said yesterday.

"Our assessment is that Hezbollah and Iran will both continue to maintain a heightened level of terrorist activity and operations in the near future," said Daniel Benjamin, the US State Department's counter-terrorism coordinator.

"We are increasingly concerned about Hezbollah's activities on a number of fronts, including its stepped up terrorist campaign around the world," he said.

"And we assess that Hezbollah could attack in Europe or elsewhere at any time with little or no warning," he warned, in a conference call with reporters to announce new US sanctions against

Hezbollah, Iran and Syria.

Hezbollah is a Shiite armed faction that within Lebanon operates as a political party and as a "resistance" force to counter Israel, and which Western powers say runs an international militant network.

It is backed by Damascus and Tehran, and has been accused both of carrying out recent bomb attacks on Israeli targets in Europe and Asia and of backing Syrian strongman Bashar al-Assad's brutal crackdown on an armed revolt.

Benjamin warned Hezbollah might step up violent action as international economic sanctions turn the screw on its backers in Iran and Western-backed Syrian rebels threaten to overthrow its sponsor in Damascus.

"Hezbollah maintains a presence in Europe and its recent activities demonstrate that it is not constrained by concerns about collateral damage

or political fallout that could result from conducting operations there," he said.

"Hezbollah believes there have been sustained Israeli and western campaigns against the group and its primary backers Iran and Syria over the past several years and this perception is unlikely to change," he continued.

"Both remain determined to exact revenge against Israel and to respond forcefully to the Western-led pressure against Iran and Syria," he said. "This suggests more acts of terrorism by both Hezbollah and Iran are likely and they will continue to pose a serious threat for the foreseeable future."

"We have not detected any operational activity of the group in the United States," he added. "We do not have any information on any operational targeting or anything like that in the US. But, that said, it's a very ambitious group with global reach."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US mosques unite for Syria 'day of solidarity'

FALLS CHURCH (AFP) - Mosques and Islamic centers across the United States came together yesterday to condemn Syria's brutal crackdown on dissent and raise funds for civilians trapped in the conflict.

With the holy month of Ramadan heading towards its final week, imams used yesterday's prayers to denounce Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as a tyrant and to encourage American Muslims to speak out against ongoing atrocities.

"What is going on in Syria is unbelievable," Imam Shaker Elsayed told more than 300 noon-hour worshippers at the Dar Al-Hijra mosque in Falls Church, Virginia, a multi-ethnic suburb of Washington.

"It reminds me of Pol Pot. It reminds me of Adolf Hitler. It reminds me of the most despicable characters in the history of mankind... We have to take a stand. This movie in Syria, we've seen it before."

Spearheading the Day of Solidarity with the Syrian People was the Council on Ameri-

can-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and 12 other Muslim and Syrian-American organizations.

It coincided with the United States slapping new sanctions yesterday on Assad's regime and its supporters, in a conflict that has claimed 21,000 lives in the past 17 months in the heart of the Middle East.

The United States is home to an estimated 2.6 million Muslims, according to an estimate in 2010 by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Mohammed Ghanem, director of government relations for the Syrian American Council, one of the groups behind yesterday's day of solidarity, was unable to specify the number of mosques and Islamic centers participating.

"But it's on quite a large scale," he told AFP, after the sponsoring organizations -- which include the biggest Muslim organizations in the United States -- "got in touch with their base and urged them to take part."



MADRID : A combination of pictures released by the Spanish National Police on August 10, 2012 shows Samuel Zazueta Valenzuela (L), Rafael Humberto Celya Valenzuela (2nd L), Jesus Gutierrez Guzman (2nd R), first cousin of Mexico's most notorious drug cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and Jesus Gonzalo Palazuelos Soto (R), four members of the Sinaloa drug cartel who were arrested in central Madrid in a joint operation between the Spanish police and the FBI.

AFP PHOTO

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Health & Living

Obama wages birth control fight in bid for woman vote



DENVER (AFP) - US President Barack Obama reopened a culture war battle over contraception yesterday, saying Mitt Romney's Republicans would take women's preventive health care back to the 1950s.

In a direct pitch for the votes of women, who could be crucial in November's election, Obama flew to Colorado to tout his health care law, which mandates coverage for preventive services like mammo-

grams and contraception. Obama argued that Romney, who has vowed to repeal the historic and controversial health care law, would wipe out several important victories in the struggle for women's health rights.

Women, who represent about 53 percent of the US electorate, backed Obama 56-43 percent over John McCain in the 2008 election.

A recent New York Times/CBS poll found Obama leading Romney among single women by 29 points, but married women historically lean towards Republican candidates.

So gender gap politics will play a crucial role in the countdown to the November 6 election.

In Denver, Obama argued that contraception was not merely a social issue, saying that doctors sometimes prescribe birth control to manage various health conditions, and that women should have the right to make their own choices.

"We know the overall cost of care is lower when women have access to contraceptive services," Obama said, arguing 99 percent of women had relied on birth control at some point and many had struggled to afford it.

He also noted the two and three year anniversaries of his Supreme Court picks -- female justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan -- and warned the next president would likely get to make more appointments.

Obama was introduced by law graduate Sandra Fluke, who was caught in a fierce political firestorm earlier this year when she publicly backed the president's plan to require health insurance firms to cover contraception.

"If Mr Romney can't stand up to extreme voices in his own party, then we know he will never stand up for us, and he won't defend the rights that generations of women have fought for," Fluke said.

"We must remember that even though it is 2012, we are still having the debates that we thought were won before I was even born."

The issue of contraception was thrust into the 2012 election campaign early this year after Republicans claimed Obama's provision requiring organizations to offer free contraception on employee health plans was a war on religion.

Obama sought to defuse the row by exempting religious organizations. But he stuck by the principle that all women should have free access to such services, putting the onus on insurance firms to offer women working for religious employers such as Catholic hospitals free birth control coverage.

Guinea Government Says Cholera Outbreak Not Letting Up



CONAKRY (AFP) - An outbreak of cholera in Guinea has killed 60 people since February and is showing no signs of letting up, the country's health ministry said yesterday.

Officials have registered 2,054 cases, with the capital Conakry and the south-western city of Forecariah worst affected.

Thirteen people have died in Conakry and 23 in Forecariah.

The NGO Doctors Without Borders said in a statement it had increased the number of hospital beds to "soon reach 600 to prepare for the height of the outbreak".

Two other organisations, Unicef and Action Against Hunger, have donated hygiene

kits containing soap and chlorine to purify water.

Guinean health authorities are also running local awareness campaigns in a bid to stem the outbreak.

Poor water and sanitation systems give rise to the disease, an acute intestinal infection caused by ingesting contaminated food and water which causes acute diarrhoea and vomiting and can kill in hours, according to the World Health Organisation.

Sierra Leone, Mali and Niger have also been hard hit, with high levels of malnourishment as a result of a drought exacerbating the problem.



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Sci-Tech

New York police launch high-tech surveillance

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York police this week launched what officials say is a revolutionary camera surveillance system that will simultaneously scan the streets and call up data on suspects.

The Domain Awareness System, developed with Microsoft, "is an innovative tool that has the potential to revolutionize law enforcement, intelligence and public safety operations," the mayor's office said.

Unlike simpler camera surveillance networks, the new system instantly gives officers massive amounts of information about what they are monitoring.

It "aggregates and analyzes existing public safety data streams in real time, providing NYPD investigators and analysts with a comprehensive view of potential threats and criminal activity," the office said.

For example, officers watching crime suspects via a live video feed will also immediately see arrest records, related crimes in the area and other data that could build a

portrait of the individual under scrutiny.

Cars linked to a suspect can be analyzed so that investigators know where it has been for months, while officers will also be able to rewind footage tracing who left any suspicious package.

"The system is a transformative tool because it was created by police officers for police officers," Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the "cutting edge" system "capitalizes on new, powerful policing software that allows police officers and other personnel to more quickly access relevant information gathered from existing cameras, 911 calls, previous crime reports and other existing tools and technology."

About 3,000 cameras are connected to the Domain Awareness System. The majority are in the financial and business districts of Manhattan, where most of the city's skyscrapers are located, but the network is being expanded to other parts of New York.

Bizarre rock 'ice shelf' found in Pacific



A huge cluster of floating volcanic rocks covering almost 26,000 square kilometres (10,000 square miles) has been found drifting in the Pacific, the New Zealand navy said Friday. The strange phenomenon, which witnesses said resembled a polar ice shelf, was made up of lightweight pumice expelled from an underwater volcano, the navy said. An air force plane spotted the rocks on Thursday about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) offshore from New Zealand and warned a navy warship that it was heading towards them. Lieutenant Tim Oscar said that while he knew his ship the HMNZS Canterbury was in no danger from the pumice, which is solidified lava filled with air bubbles, it was still "the weirdest thing I've seen in 18 years at sea". Scientists aboard the ship said the pumice probably came from an underwater volcano called Monowai, which has been active recently. They said the phenomenon was unrelated to increased volcanic activity in New Zealand this week, including an eruption at Mount Tongariro that sent an ash cloud 20,000 feet into the atmosphere.

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China tries surgeon in 'iPhone-for-kidney' case



BEIJING (AFP) - A surgeon and four other people are on trial in central China over the case of a teenager who is said

Everyday green lifestyle tips:

- *If you use wrapping paper and or are given it on a gift by someone else, salvage the paper for future gifts and collect the intact bows. You'll be saving money, trees, and landfill space.
- *Keep old squeeze bottles from your kitchen to use as bottles for your hair-care and cosmetic needs. Plastic salad dressing and cooking-oil bottles can be cleaned and refilled with soap, lotion, or shampoo.
- *Instead of using plastic bags for produce try reusable bags-they are better for the environment & keep produce fresher.

to have sold a kidney to buy an iPhone and iPad 2, state media reported Friday.

The state-run China Daily newspaper said that 18-year-old Wang Shangkun is in serious condition after receiving an illegal transplant operation last year.

The five people on trial stand accused of intentional injury and illegal organ trading over the removal and sale of the organ and face three to 10 years in prison if con-

victed, the paper said.

Citing court documents, the China Daily said that Wang agreed to sell his kidney after contacting an illegal agency online.

The Changsha Evening News reported that a representative of Wang was seeking 2.77 million yuan in compensation from the five defendants, medical staff who participated in the surgery, a hospital and a medical investment company.



(AFP) - The annual Perseid meteor shower -- dubbed "the tears of St. Lawrence" in honour of a martyred Christian saint -- reaches its peak this weekend, astronomers said. Cloud-free skies permitting, the show of shooting stars should be an above-average spectacle this year as the Moon is in a waning, crescent phase and so will cast relatively little light. The Perseids are named after the constellation of Perseus from which they appear to fly out. The meteors come from dust shed by the comet Swift-Tuttle, which swings around the Solar System every 130 years, depositing the material in Earth's orbit as it nears the Sun. The shower is best visible in the northern hemisphere, and should reach a peak between 1200 GMT and 1430 GMT on Sunday, according to the International Meteor Organisation

COMICS

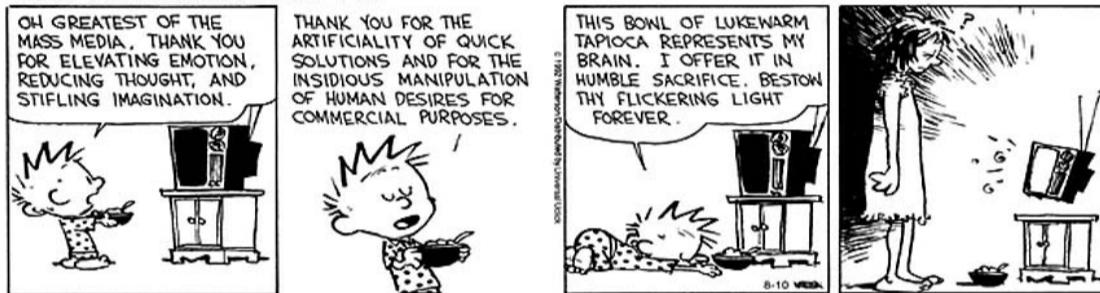
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



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ACROSS

1. Second-hand spot
5. Manipulate
8. Frederick Forsyth protagonist, often
11. Where to see Ra II
12. Blind strip
14. Gardener's tool
15. Subterfuge
17. Thousands of years
18. Asian range
19. Throws the dice
21. Saunter
24. Snarl
26. Tropical squeezer
27. Computer programmer's command
29. Mischief night missiles
32. Spreading trees
34. Polo Grounds Giant
35. "Over hill, over ____..."
36. Developing nation's burden
37. Expense
39. Some humans
40. "____ Africa" (1985 Streep film)
42. Modify
44. "Crazy" birds
46. Fire truck feature
48. Ax's cousin

49. Car-window soaper, e.g.

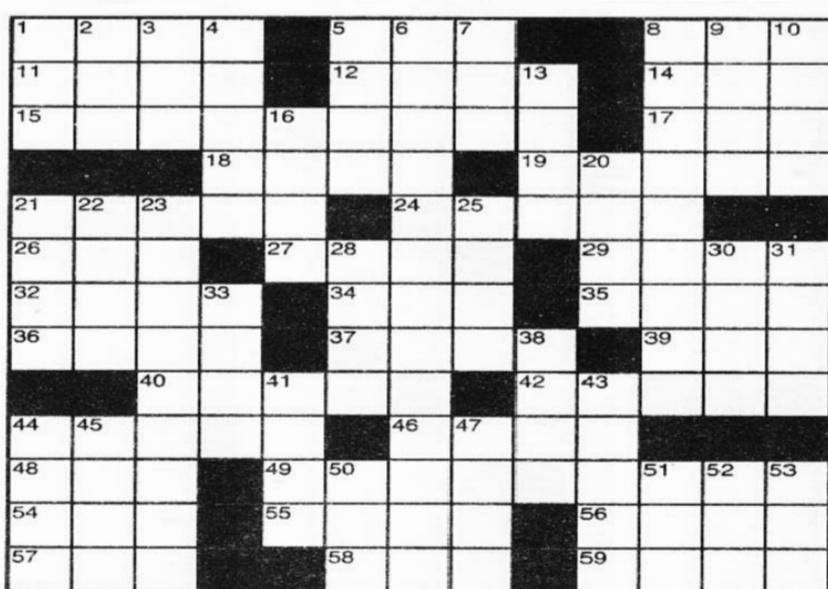
54. Fa follower
55. Possessing all one's marbles
56. Extremely dry
57. Three, to Luigi
58. Sullivan and Wynn
59. Scotland ____

DOWN

1. Medic's nickname
2. Entertainer Kabibble
3. Loser to Holmes in '80
4. From hereabouts
5. Annapolis inst.
6. Copperfield's

VERY TRICKY

7. ____ candy (pleasant pop music)
8. Swindling scheme
9. Feature of a mansion's backyard
10. Hankerings
13. Novice
16. Helm position
20. Had creditors
21. Not yet up
22. Mexican sauce
23. Hornswoggle
25. Spoils
28. Erica's "Fame" role
30. Watkins ____
31. E-mail
33. Astound
38. Entry on a to-do list



SOLUTION

2	4	8	3	9	6	1	7	5	9
6	5	7	2	1	8	4	3	9	6
9	3	1	4	7	5	2	8	6	1
4	8	2	5	3	9	7	6	1	3
5	7	3	1	6	2	8	9	4	5
1	6	9	7	8	4	3	5	2	6
7	1	5	9	2	3	6	4	8	7
8	2	4	6	5	7	9	1	3	8
3	9	6	8	4	1	5	2	7	9
5	7	1	4	3	6	8	5	2	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Finance

US decides not to prosecute Goldman Sachs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Department of Justice decided not to prosecute Goldman Sachs over its marketing of high-risk mortgage securities despite a damning report into its practices by a Senate investigation panel.

In April last year, following a two-year inquiry, senators concluded the Wall Street investment banking giant misled clients ahead of the US financial crash by off-loading securities its traders fully expected to lose value.

Releasing the report last year, the head of the investigative committee, Senator Carl Levin, recommended that charges be brought and said: "In my judgment, Goldman clearly misled their clients and they misled Congress."

But yesterday, the Justice Department concluded: "There is not a viable basis to bring a criminal prosecution with respect to Goldman Sachs or its employees in regard to the allegations set forth in the report."

A statement from the department said its investigators had closely scrutinized the Senate's evidence and conducted inquiries and witness interviews of its own, and concluded it could not prove wrongdoing.

Apparently anticipating criticism for letting one of the banks seen as deeply at fault in the 2008 crisis off the hook, the

Justice Department insisted it has fiercely pursued other cases against financial giants.

The Senate report concluded Goldman and other banks had sold clients collateralized debt obligations -- investments based on bundles of often risky home loans -- despite believing they were likely to lose value.

The crash of 2008 wiped billions of dollars off the value of the widely-held CDOs, and savaged the balance sheets of investors in them, especially banks which were overexposed to the complex financial instruments.

The failure of the multi-trillion dollar CDO market was a key factor in the financial and housing market crash that sent the US economy into recession over 2008 and 2009.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US yesterday slashed production estimates for its globally crucial corn and soybean crops, saying the record heat across the country's farm belt had cut expected output to the lowest level in six years.

The curtailed production will likely send corn and soybean prices to record highs, the Department of Agriculture said.

The department predicted corn prices would soar as high as \$8.90 a bushel, compared to its July projection of \$6.40. Soybean prices would hit \$15-17 a bushel, \$2.00 higher than the USDA forecast last month.

In its key August assessment of major US crops, the department said the world's largest corn crop would likely come in 13 percent smaller than 2011's at 10.8 billion bushels. The soybean crop -- also the world's largest -- would be down 12 percent from last year at 2.69 billion bushels.

The department said the all-time record temperatures across the country in July left much of both crops damaged, sending yields per acre on corn to the lowest level since 1995, and for soybeans, the lowest since 2003.

The US farm belt has been ravaged by the most stifling drought since the 1950s, which intensified when the country's contiguous 48 states endured the hottest July on record last month.

Earlier this week, the

USDA said 50 percent of the US corn crop was rated poor or very poor, up from 38 percent in mid-July and 16 percent a year ago.

For soybeans, 39 percent of the crop was in poor or very poor condition, up from 30 percent in mid-July and just 13 percent at this time in 2011.

While weather forecasters are predicting a cooling of temperatures across the mid-west in the next week, it is unlikely to reverse those numbers as most of the crops are already maturing.

US corn prices jumped after the announcement to hit \$850 a bushel before falling back to the \$822 level, while soybeans were up sharply at \$16.51 a bushel.

The US drought has already fed into world food prices. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization's global food price index jumped six percent in July after declining for three months, the FAO said Thursday.

The drought has also raised questions about US rules that

compel US fuel producers to use grain-based ethanol in their gasoline. Earlier this month a number of legislators called for easing of the rules because of the high price of corn.

Yesterday, FAO chief Jose Graziano da Silva urged the United States to stop turning corn and other crops into bio-fuels like ethanol to mitigate the sharp rise in food prices.

"The US drought leaves global markets highly vulnerable to any further supply side shocks," da Silva wrote in the Financial Times.

"At the moment, the renewable energy production in the US is reported to have reached 15.2 billion gallons in 2012, for which it used the equivalent of some 121.9 million tons or about 40 percent of US maize (corn) production," he said.

He called for an "immediate, temporary suspension" of a mandate to reserve some crops for biofuels, saying that would provide some respite to the market "and allow more of the maize crop to be channeled towards food and feed uses."



NEW YORK: A Papa John's pizza restaurant is seen on August 9, 2012 in New York City. Papa John's chief executive, John Schnatter, has stated that due to U.S. President Barack Obama's controversial health-care law he will need to raise costs by 15 to 20 cents a pizza. (AFP)



MANCHESTER UNITED

NEW YORK CITY : AFP photo courtesy of the New York Stock Exchange Euronet shows Manchester United executives as they ring the Opening Bell at the New York Stock Exchange on August 10, 2012 in New York City. Manchester United Lists Initial Public Offering on the New York Stock Exchange. Manchester United shares barely treaded water in debut trade in New York yesterday even after underwriters slashed the IPO price amid doubts about the legendary British football club's financial promise. Midway through trade the team's shares were changing hands at \$14.00, the price set on Thursday for subscribers to the club's \$234 million initial public offering. Analysts said underwriters were propping up the shares on the New York Stock Exchange to keep them from dropping below the issue price

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Current as 08/10/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.71	2.76	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	181.65	182.37	183.17
Netherlands	EUR	216.42	218.39	220.59
Sweden	SEK	25.62	26.34	27.14
Denmark	DKK	28.37	29.09	29.89
Norway	NOK	29.07	29.79	30.59
Japan	JPY	225.15	227.21	229.49
(per 100)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				



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Russian deputy PM says Madonna tweet was not an insult



MOSCOW (AFP) - A Russian deputy prime minister has said he did not insult Madonna on Twitter ahead of her Saint Petersburg concert in which she spoke in defence of gay rights.

The outspoken lawmaker, Dmitry Rogozin, tweeted a Russian abbreviation on Wednesday that was widely interpreted as an insult aimed at Madonna.

In his tweet, Rogozin used the letter "b", which can sometimes refer to an offensive Russian word for "whore."

"Every former b. seeks to lecture everyone on morality as she gets older. Especially during tours and gigs abroad," Rogozin tweeted.

"Either take off your cross, or put on your knickers," he added.

After media outlets picked up the comments, the former NATO envoy said on Facebook on Thursday that he meant no offense and the abbreviation could refer to many things including "goddess" or "ballerina".

"And they immediately linked my comments with the

so-called 'Madonna' (goddamn her) even though I did not say a word about her."

At her Saint Petersburg concert Thursday, Madonna spoke in support of the gay community in an often homophobic nation.

She also irked authorities Tuesday when she called for the release of three members of all-girl punk band Pussy Riot, who are on trial for performing a song against President Vladimir Putin at a landmark Moscow church.

(AFP) - Lady Gaga took to Twitter August 9 to unveil her eagerly awaited front cover for the September issue of US Vogue. "I'm so excited to post the SEPT ISSUE OF VOGUE in 30 min! Photographed by MERT & MARCUS," tweeted the songstress, before posting a picture of her stunning front cover. Sporting huge backcombed hair,

the songstress is clad in a hot pink fishtail gown by Marc Jacobs, with styling by Grace Coddington. The moody full-length image is a stark contrast to the typical close-ups of smiling celebrities that often make the front cover, and it appears to have gone down well with Gaga's 28 million-plus followers.



Casinos are 'secret strategy' to protect Cambodia: PM

PHNOM PENH (AFP) - Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday said allowing the construction of a spate of border casinos was part of a "secret strategy" to protect the country's territory from its neighbours.

"I don't like casinos, but the biggest goal for giving permission to build casinos is to protect the border," he told parliament during a five-hour speech addressing border demarcation issues with Vietnam.

"One can remove border markers, but one can't remove five-storey hotels. Don't be stupid," Hun Sen said, in response to opposition criticism that the gambling dens were harmful to the country.

Cambodia's border with Vietnam and Thailand is dotted with dozens of casinos and accompanying hotels catering mostly to foreign gamblers since Cambodians are not legally allowed to gamble.

Hun Sen used the marathon address, which was broadcast live on television, to deny long-standing claims from the main

opposition party that his government was allowing Vietnam to encroach on Cambodian territory.

Cambodia and Vietnam officially began demarcating their

1,270-kilometre (790-mile) border in September 2006 after decades of territorial disputes stemming from French colonial times.

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"Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many to choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



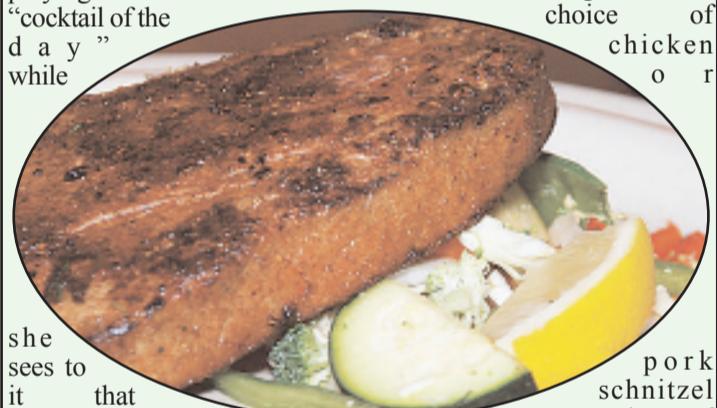
Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's



Ron produces a cool, refreshing mojito

A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while



Tuna steak a la chef Jan

she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal. Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at \$9.50 and \$8.50, or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using specially imported organic beef from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only \$9.50 with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a second or third hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$20.50. They

also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$4. One regular described the place as particularly "kid-friendly," with Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods to keep young ones entertained. The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while other can be indulgent gourmands.

Tuesday through Saturday evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates. Tuesday is Schnitzel Night, with a choice of chicken or

pork schnitzel prepared any of five ways, a platter with

salad and side dish is \$17.50. Wednesday is "All you can eat grouper, prepared any of five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50. Thursday they do it again with unlimited ribs done three ways for \$17.50 with salad, slaw and fries. Saturday means endless rib eye steak with salad and fries for \$19.50. Friday evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

Barney's is located just next to the huge supermarket on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station. They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barnesaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.



Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



Russia maintain synchro stranglehold with team gold



Russia



Spain

LONDON (AFP) - Hot favourites Russia won synchronised swimming team gold on Friday to maintain their total domination of the sport stretching back to the Sydney Games in 2000. The Russians, with a total score of 197.030, were completing their fourth consecutive Games clean sweep after lifting the duet title on Tuesday. China, third in the duet, took second, with Spain claiming the bronze medal. Russia's triumphant team comprised Anastasia Davydova, winning her fifth Olympic gold, Maria Gromova, Natalia Ishchenko, Elvira Khasanova, Daria Korobova, Alexandra Patskevich, Svetlana Romashina and Anzhelika Timanina. I am very happy that we managed to get the result with the girls and that we carried on the tradition of synchronised swimming, winning four Olympic Games in a row, said Davydova. On the secret of Russia's success she added: "We train children from three years of age at school. By 15 they are already ahead and competing." The last time Russia failed to win the gold at a major championship was at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games when they finished fourth to the United States, not represented in this final. Great Britain came in sixth of the eight finalists on their first appearance in the team event.

USA women break world record to take relay gold



LONDON (AFP) - The United States smashed one of the oldest world records on Friday when they won the women's Olympic 4x100m relay title in 40.82sec.

The quartet sliced more than half a second off the 27-year-old record of 41.37sec set by the former East Germany in 1985, four years before the Berlin Wall fell.

The Americans beat home arch-rivals Jamaica, who timed 41.41sec, while Ukraine took bronze in 42.04sec.

The 100m silver medalist and 200m bronze medallist Carmelita Jeter anchored the team to gold with a devastating burst down the final stretch and screamed for joy after she crossed the line.

Jeter, the 32-year-old who has become a leading sprinter late in life under the auspices of legendary coach John Smith, said she had no doubts about the ability of her three teammates.

"I knew that if we got the stick around then all I had to do was to bring it home."

It was a second gold at the London Games for 200m champion Allyson Felix while Tianna Madison and Bianca Knight completed the quartet.

"It's an honour to be part of this team. Who would have thought that we would have had a world record tonight? It's amazing," beamed Felix, who had ended her drought in the Olympic 200 metres at the third attempt.

It was the United States' first Olympic gold in the event

since the 1996 Atlanta Games and only their first medal since the 2000 Sydney Games, where they took bronze.

The Jamaicans were gracious in defeat, satisfied to have run a national record and accepting that the Americans were too strong this time round.

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce,

who successfully defended her 100m title earlier in the Games, said the Americans were the better quartet but could not resist a dig at their expense.

The oldest women's world record on the books is Jarmila Kratochvilova's 800m mark of 1:53.28, set in 1983.



LONDON (AFP) - Jordan Burroughs, the poster boy of American wrestling, lived up to all the pre-London 2012 hype by adding Olympic gold to his world title in the men's 74kg freestyle category. The 24-year-old from New Jersey, whose Twitter handle is [@allisseeisgold](#), was too fast for Iran's Sadegh Gourdazi at the Excel Arena, saving his best for last as he won 3-0 in a repeat of last year's world championship final. Burroughs, who only started competing at international level two years ago, confirmed he was now set to receive a cheque for \$250,000 from USA Wrestling, the reward promised by officials, if he won in London. Sporting contests between the United States and Iran have often had an extra element of tension because of the fraught political relations between the two countries for the past 30 years. But there were no signs of nerves as Burroughs struck late in both periods, leaving Gourdazi with just seconds to spare in which to come back -- a task that proved beyond the Iranian.

Netherlands beat Argentina to retain women's hockey crown



LONDON (AFP) - The Netherlands beat world champions Argentina 2-0 to retain their women's Olympic hockey title Friday, raising the prospect of a Dutch double with their men set for a gold medal match against Germany.

The reigning champions took a long time to break down their nearest rivals, but eventually were a little more incisive in front of goal, thanks to their captain Maartje Paumen.

Surprisingly Paumen had not scored at all in the earlier matches, saying that she was saving her goals for the final -- and she delivered magnificently.

The first came when Carlien

Dirkse van den Heuvel's shot was too fierce to control and Paumen pounced on the rebound with a predator's instinct, undeterred either by the angle or the fact that she was leaning backwards.

The second was quite different -- a brilliant shot from the edge of the penalty circle which needed to find the top corner to avoid the goalkeeper's dive. It did just that.

We saved the best to last. It was like we were playing in Holland -- the whole crowd was orange," said Paumen, who now has a record 14 goals in all Olympics.

It took fully 45 minutes to make the first breach in Argentina's defence, and 53 min-

utes to make the second. This meant that the Dutch knew, if they continued to pass the ball with control in a match with few openings, they would retain the Olympic title.

Strombergs defends men's BMX title

LONDON (AFP) - Maris Strombergs of Latvia successfully defended his Olympic men's BMX title here on Friday.

Australian Sam Willoughby finished second for the silver with Carlos Oquendo of Colombia taking the bronze.

Strombergs claimed the maiden Olympic men's BMX gold when the sport made its debut in Beijing four years ago.

And despite coming up against a handful of younger riders who had shown their mettle in the unforgiving quarter-finals and semi-final races, the Latvian stepped up when it mattered most.

He shot off the eight-metre high ramp and had quickly built a slight lead on the rest of the eight-man field.

Willoughby was hot on his heels but with several jumps and berms to negotiate, neither rider was free of danger.

British gold medal hope Liam Phillips came down on the penultimate berm and struggled to rejoin the field after he could not clip his foot back on to his pedal.

It left the hosts without a medal as only minutes earlier Shanaze Reade could only finish sixth in the women's final. Despite Willoughby's attempt at a late fightback on the closing bumps Strombergs held on to triumph.

Police search home of disgraced walker Schwazer

ROME (AFP) - Italian anti-drugs officers on Friday searched the home of disgraced 2008 Olympic 50km walk champion Alex Schwazer as part of a wider probe into doping in sports.

Schwazer did not defend his title at the London Games after he was withdrawn from the Italian team before the Olympics for failing a drugs test.

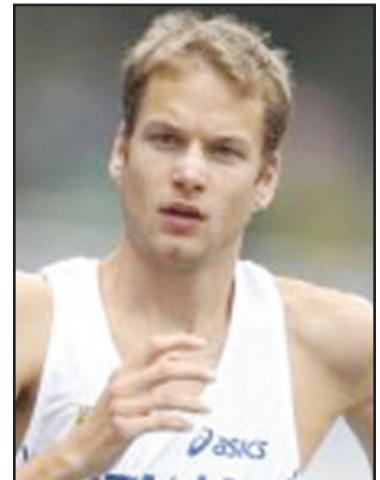
Police carried out a search of the rider's home at Calice, near Bolzano in northern Italy on Friday in the 27-year-old's presence and seized computers and other documents.

Prosecutor Guido Rispoli said that the aim was to "establish contacts between Schwazer and Dr Michele Ferrari".

Dr Ferrari is accused of helping riders take performance-enhancing drugs, and has for several years been the central figure in an Italian doping probe.

Schwazer's name appears in one of the dossiers relating to this enquiry.

Schwazer tested positive for



the banned blood booster EPO during a test conducted by the

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on July 30, and the court in Bolzano on Wednesday opened an investigation into sporting fraud against the rider.

Schwazer was a bronze medallist at the 2005 and 2007 World Championships before striking gold at Beijing four years ago.

He had been one of Italy's best medal hopes in London after a solid start to the season which saw him clock the fourth best time of his career.

Pajon of Colombia wins women's BMX gold



LONDON (AFP) - Former world champion Mariana Pajon of Colombia won gold in the women's BMX final after finishing ahead of New Zealand's Sarah Walker and Dutchwoman Laura Smulders on Friday. Walker took the silver medal with Smulders winning the bronze. Pajon burst down the start ramp and took the lead from the outset on the 440m women's circuit and was never in danger of being overtaken. Pajon, at 20 years old the second youngest in the final behind 18-year-old Smulders, was one of the stand-out performers in the whole competition having won all three her semi-final races on the way to the final. "I can't believe it. It's like a dream come true," said Pajon, who claimed the women's world title in Copenhagen in 2011. "My whole life I am trying to win this. I want to win it again."

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NBA: Lakers acquire Howard from Magic in four-team trade



CHARLOTTE (AFP) - The Los Angeles Lakers have finalized a deal to acquire all-star centre Dwight Howard in a 12-player, four-team deal, the National Basketball Association team announced on Friday.

The deal also sees Lakers centre Andrew Bynum go to the Philadelphia 76ers.

In addition to Howard, the Lakers receive Chris Duhon and Earl Clark from Orlando while sending Josh McRoberts, Christian Eyenga and a future first round and second round draft pick to Orlando.

Orlando also shipped guard Jason Richardson to Philadelphia for centre Nikola Vucevic and first-round draft pick Moe Harkless, while also acquiring guard Arron Afflalo and forward Al Harrington from Denver.

The Nuggets picked up forward Andre Iguodala from Philadelphia and Bynum.

A total of five draft picks over the next five years will

go to Orlando. The Magic will receive a second-round pick from Denver in 2013, a first-round pick from either Denver or New York in 2014, a conditional first-round pick from Philadelphia and the two conditional picks from the Lakers.

Howard is a five-time first team all-star and is the first player in NBA history to win three straight Defensive Player of the Year Awards, beginning in 2009.

Bynum was the Lakers 10th overall pick in the 2005 NBA entry draft. Last season, he averaged 18.7 points, 11.8 rebounds and 1.93 blocks.

Bynum won two NBA titles with the Lakers but had recently fallen out of favour with some of teammates and the club's fan base.

Howard was a member of the USA's gold medal winning team at the Beijing Olympics. In 54 games last season, he averaged 20.6 points, 14.5 rebounds and 2.15 blocked shots. His rebound total was a career best.

US NBA stars defeat Argentina to reach final

LONDON (AFP) - Kevin Durant scored 19 points and LeBron James added 18 to lead the United States team of NBA stars over Argentina 109-83 on Friday and into the Olympic men's basketball gold medal final against Spain.

The Americans booked a rematch of the 2008 Olympic final and reached the gold medal game for the 15th time in 17 attempts, having missed out in 1988 and 2004 and skipped the 1980 Moscow Olympics in a boycott.

The US men, who also had 18 points from Carmelo Anthony, seek their 14th gold medal against a Spanish side filled with NBA standouts, one that battled the US to the end before falling 118-107 in the 2008 Beijing final.

Spain defeated Russia 67-



Krzyzewski as coach.

The US NBA multi-millionaires had defeated Argentina 126-97 in a preliminary group match four days earlier, a physical contest in which Carmelo Anthony was hit in the groin while shooting by Argentina's



59 in Friday's other semi-final. Argentina will play Russia on Sunday for the bronze medal.

Argentina ousted the US squad in a 2004 Athens Olympics semi-final on the way to capturing gold but the Americans returned the favour in Beijing.

The US team improved to 61-1 since settling from bronze at the 2004 Olympics and revamping the national team program with Mike

Facundo Campazzo. While there were a few physical fouls, there was no sign of such antics this time around.

NBA San Antonio Spurs star Manu Ginobili, who led Argentina with 18 points, sank a 3-pointer at the half-time buzzer and another to open the third quarter as part of a 14-6 Argentina run to pull the South Americans within 47-43 just 21 seconds into the second half.

Reigning NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant sank two 3-pointers in a 8-0 US run to give the NBA stars a 59-46 edge, their largest of the game to that point, before Argentina fought back within 59-51.

That's when LeBron James drove to the basket, leaped high into the air and slammed in a dunk that produced a roar from the sellout crowd of 20,000 and touched off a 13-2 US run that separated the US stars from Argentina for good.

Durant had back-to-back 3-pointers and James added five more points in the key span, which left the Americans on top 72-53 and Argentina never threatened again.

Kobe Bryant scored eight points in a 15-2 US run that produced an 18-6 lead for the Americans only 4:19 into the game, the Los Angeles Lakers star guard sinking a 3-pointer to conclude the streak.

Spain answered by scoring 11 of the next 12 points to pull within 19-17 but James sparked a 17-8 US run early in the second quarter, scoring nine points including a 3-point play to push the early US edge to 41-29.